

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16 and ending at page 4, line 27 with the following:

Fasteners 110 and 112 may be integrally molded with members 102 and 104, respectively, and may be fastened to form a treat retaining cavity 101 to retain a treat 106 as illustrated in FIG. 1 and 2-1 or other type of attractant, such as treats 206 illustrated in FIG. 2-2. Fasteners 110 and 112 mate to extend axially through treat retaining cavity 101 to selectively position first peripheral edge 130 of first member 102 and second peripheral edge 132 of second member 104 at a selected spacing. More particularly, relative engagement of fasteners 110 and 112 alter the axial position of the fasteners with respect to each other, thereby selectively adjusting the space between member 102 and 104.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 28 and ending at page 5, line 21 with the following:

Thus, as shown in FIG. 2, fasteners 110 and 112 selectively position first peripheral edge 130 of first member 102 relative to second peripheral edge 132 of second member 104 at a selected distance 240 such that treat retaining cavity 101 has predetermined selective height 242 relative to distance 240. The selective engagement of fasteners 110 and 112 result in a selected distance 240 between members 102 and 104 which creates a continuous and peripheral access about pet toy 100 to treat retaining cavity 101 that retains treat 106 illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2-1 or treats 206 illustrated in FIG. 2-2. Selective height 242 has a minimum height when selected distance 240 is zero. This minimum height is substantially similar to the height of treat 106. Cavity 101 also has predetermined first diameter 244. First diameter 244 is substantially similar to the outer diameter of treat 106. In addition to constant first diameter 244 of cavity 101, fasteners 110 and 112 have a constant predetermined second diameter 246. It should be appreciated that any type of fastener, which would permit adjustment of the separation of first member 102 and second member 104, can be used to engage first member 102 and second member 104.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 22 and ending at page 7, line 17 with the following:

Prior to threadably engaging first member 102 to second member 104, treat 106 or treats 206 is are received and arranged by either first center hub 108 or second center hub 109. FIG. 3 is a section view of treat 106 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2-1. Treat 106 is a substantially solid, rigid and edible body in

the shape of a toroid. Treat 106 has an outer diameter 348 that is substantially equal to or less than predetermined first diameter 244. Treat 106 has an inner diameter 350 that forms a center opening that is greater than the predetermined second diameter 246 of fasteners 110 and 112. In addition, the thickness of treat 106 is not greater than a minimum of predetermined selective height 242 of treat retaining cavity 101. For example, treat 106 is a plurality of bits or pieces 349 of a pet treat or edible material that is held together by an edible binder 351. Preferably, edible binder 351 is dissolved by the animal's saliva. In another example, treat 106 is a rigid animal biscuit. In such cases, attractant 106 has a shape relative to hubs 108 and 109 and cavity 101 formed by members 102 and 104 for being retained. In addition, granular or loose fitting treats 206 (illustrated in FIG. 2-2) may also be retained in the toy as well as deformable food or treats, such as peanut butter.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 18 and ending at page 8, line 2 with the following:

Pet toy 100 also includes slots 128 in first member 102 and second member 104. Slots 128 vent the scent of the treat 106 (FIG. 2-1) or treats 206 (FIG. 2-2) to the carnivore and provide a dental prophylaxis outlet for carnivorous teeth. FIG. 1 also illustrates matching pairs of arcuate notches 134 and 136 on respective first peripheral edge 130 and second peripheral edge 132. One of the arcuate notches 134 joins with one of the arcuate notches 136 when the rotational positions of first member 102 and second member 104 are aligned. Notches 134 and 136 can be adjusted relative to each other to provide a variably-sized opening for additional access to treat 106 or to meter the dispensing of a granular treat 206.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 3 and ending at page 8, line 16 with the following:

In any case, the carnivore's handler places treat 106 or treats 206 in cavity 101 as shown in FIGS. 1, 2-1 and 2-2 and fastens members 102 and 104 together by relatively rotating the members. Rotating members 102 and 104 axially adjusts the spacing 240 between the members allowing the handler to select the space for the carnivore's access to the treat. Hence, a smaller space will result in a more difficult access to the treat than a larger space, thereby retaining the interest of the animal for a longer duration. But if space 240 is too small, the animal may lose interest in the toy and abandon the

effort. Experience with spacing 240 adjustment by the handler will result in optimal spacing for the given animal.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 17 and ending at page 9, line 2 with the following:

In use, the carnivore chews on the toy in an attempt to loosen and obtain the attractant, thus providing the carnivore with masticatory exercise, as well as dental prophylaxis. The inclusion of the sensory attractant 106 or 206 is particularly advantageous as a training device, encouraging the carnivore to chew on the pet toy 100, rather than on furniture or other valuable items. In addition, the shape of the pet toy 100 is preferably non-spherical to aid in imparting erratic movements to pet toy 100 when rolled or bounced. Should the animal push or bounce pet toy 100, the non-symmetrical shape assures an erratic movement to the toy upon bouncing or rolling thereby providing exercise for the animal.